

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 35-68 are pending.

Herein, claims 35-44, 52 and 53 have been amended to remove the word “about.” The claims, as amended, have Section 112 support in the specification, including the original claims as-filed and, thus, no new matter has been added.

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicants have added the status of claims 1-14, which were previously cancelled.

II. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Fischer, for his time on February 14, 2011 to conduct an interview with Applicants’ representatives. During the interview, Applicants’ representatives sought clarification of statements made in ¶¶ 8-9 of the Office Action, including that “one would not have found it obvious to specifically select a pair of compositions satisfying a modulus ratio greater than 1.30 and a hardness ration less than 1,10.” Examiner Fischer confirmed that the removal of the word “about” from the claim language should overcome the pending rejections and put the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants discussed their belief that the claims were allowable even with the term “about.”

III. Section 102/103 Rejections

The Office rejects claims 35-41, 56-58, 60, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 02249707 to Ohashi (“Ohashi”) for the reasons provided at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. The Office rejects claims 42-46 and 50-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of US

Patent No. 5,006,603 to Takaki ("Takaki"), for the reasons provided at pages 4-5 of the Office Action. The Office rejects claims 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of US Patent No. 6,598,645 to Larson ("Larson"), for the reasons provided at pages 5-6 of the Office Action. The Office rejects claims 35, 59, and 62-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 53080602 to Fukuda ("Fukuda") and Ohashi, for the reasons provided at pages 6-8 of the Office Action. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of these rejections, Applicants have removed the word "about" from the claim language to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office's rejections should be withdrawn as moot.

IV. Conclusion

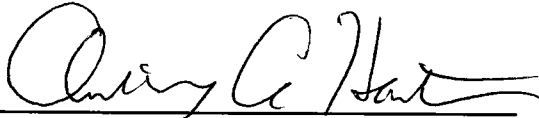
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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